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STATEMENT OF JAMES M. BEGGS, ADMINISTRATOR

JANUARY 31, 1984

I am pleased to have this opportunity to discuss President Reagan's proposed budget for NASA for Fiscal Year 1985.

Though modest in growth, this budget is bold in spirit and far-sighted in vision. It reflects the President's commitment to a forward-looking and imaginative initiative for the nation, a permanently manned Space Station. Such a facility will give us a permanent presence in low earth orbit by the early 1990s and will be the cornerstone of our activities in space through the end of the century and beyond.

Inherent in this proposal is the President's vision of the future, which embodies continued United States leadership in space technology, space exploration and the commercial uses of space, while simultaneously encouraging international cooperation with our friends and allies.

Recognizing the importance of research and development to our national economic well-being, the President's five-year projections include real growth in NASA activity of 1 percent a year over the 1986-1989 period. In recent years, such projections have provided for costs to complete programs proposed for the budget year. But in this budget projection they include an allowance for future new initiatives, which are essential to a vital program of leadership in space and in aeronautics. This is a positive step in terms of program outlook and institutional stability. It will allow us to plan our programs more efficiently and to use our resources more effectively.

The President has proposed a NASA budget of just under \$7.5 billion for FY 1985. This represents an overall increase of \$274 million, or about 4 percent over our present plan for FY 1984.

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With the Space Station program initiative, this budget will enable us to build on our preliminary Space Station planning efforts and to continue engineering and definition studies with emphasis on potential user requirements and long-lead advanced subsystem development.

As we move forward on the Space Station program, we will continue to give top priority to the Space Transportation System by refining its elements to meet our goal of an efficient, reliable and cost-effective system that will fill our space transportation needs through the 1980s and beyond.

In science and applications, the budget provides for continued progress on the Hubble Space Telescope, the Galileo mission to Jupiter, the Venus Radar Mapper and other approved projects and for important initiatives - the Mars Orbiter and the Upper Atmospheric Research Satellite. Finally, it will allow for modest expansion in space research and technology and an increase of 13 percent in aeronautical research and technology.

Since this budget represents, in part, a departure from our budget appropriations' structures of past years, I will summarize the four appropriations we now have.

First, a total of \$2.4 billion requested for Research and Development, which comprises about 32 percent of the total budget request. This includes \$150 million for the Space Station efforts.

Second, an appropriation of \$3.6 billion is requested in the new category of Space Flight, Control and Data Communications for Shuttle production, operations and tracking and data acquisition support.

Finally, our Construction of Facilities account, at \$160 million, and our Research and Program Management budget, at \$1.3 billion, represent essentially level programs with pricing adjustments.

This partial reordering of categories reflects the appropriations structure Congress created in FY 1984 to mirror NASA's operational role in the Shuttle program. In previous years, production and operations had been included in the R&D account.

Compared with our FY 1984 budget plan, the FY 1985 R&D request is up about \$375 million, while the Space Flight, Control and Data Communications request is down \$175 million. Even though there is an overall decrease in the appropriations requested for the Shuttle program, flight activity and reimbursements continue to increase because of our paying customers. Plans call for seven to eight Shuttle missions in FY 1984, 11 in FY 1985, 16 in FY 1986 and a continuing increase in payload flight assignments through the end of the decade.

Although mainline Shuttle development has been completed and we are into the operational phase, we are still working on improving performance capability, enhancing the reliability of systems, completing production of the fleet and procuring the necessary spare parts.

Consistent with these goals, other Shuttle-related activities which the budget request will support include:

- * The second and third Spacelab missions;
- * The launch of the second and third Tracking and Data Relay Satellites to complete our new spaceborne communications relay system;
- * Completion of the Shuttle fleet, with delivery of the fourth orbiter, Atlantis (OV-104), in December 1984 and continuing acquisition of structural spares to support the fleet;
- * Continued support for a joint program with the Department of Defense to modify the Centaur as an upper stage for the Space Transportation System;
- * Improvements to the Space Shuttle propulsion system with emphasis on Main Engine system reliability and Solid Rocket Booster performance; and
- * Continued hardware development for the United States-Italian Tethered Satellite System to provide a new capability to conduct space experiments in regions remote from the Shuttle orbiter.

In addition to the Space Station program, other initiatives contained in the FY 1985 budget request include: an Upper Atmospheric Research Satellite and a Mars Geoscience/Climatology Orbiter.

For the past several years we have been developing instruments for a satellite that would, for the first time, make a comprehensive, global measurement of the stratosphere, or the upper layer of the atmosphere. This budget will enable us to begin to develop the Upper Atmospheric Research Satellite that will place these instruments in earth orbit.

A major new flight program to expand our knowledge of Mars is the Mars Geoscience/Climatology Orbiter (MGO). This budget will permit the initiation of design and development of the orbiter and its instruments, which will measure the planet's geologic and climatic evolution. The MGO, which will be launched in 1990, is the first of a new series of relatively low-cost Planetary Observers designed to investigate specific questions in planetary science.

We have restructured the Advanced Communications Technology Satellite Program to address the original program objectives without the NASA-funded flight test. The FY 1985 budget will support further technology development and a ground test program, which will allow the United States to remain competitive in this important new technology.

The budget will also support continued advanced research and technology development in the NASA Aeronautics program, which has been the most fundamental ingredient in maintaining the pre-eminence of United States civil and military aircraft. Major areas of emphasis will be systems technologies of rotorcraft, high performance and subsonic aircraft and advanced propulsion systems.

In an R&D organization such as NASA, it is extremely important to keep the work force at a reasonably stable level. Such stability allows us to recruit and hire new scientists and engineers to help keep our work vital and innovative. For the past two years, the NASA Civil Service complement has been stable at approximately 22,000 positions. As a consequence, we have been able to hire almost 600 recent science and engineering graduates in 1983, reversing the upward rise in the average age of our technical work force. We are delighted that the FY 1985 budget provides for a continued stable civil service complement.

In closing, let me say a further word about the President's Space Station proposal.

Needless to say, we are proud and pleased that the President has made a commitment to this effort, and we believe the nation will support it whole-heartedly. Such a multi-purpose manned facility in permanent earth orbit will be of tremendous benefit not only to the United States, but to peace-loving people around the world.

The Space Station will ensure United States leadership in civil space activities during the 1990s. It will help us to develop the commercial, scientific and industrial potential of space, in concert, not in competition with our friends. And it will be an essential stepping-stone to more ambitious space initiatives in the future.

Thank you very much.

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